UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/80
1 February 2000
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 27 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on Guinea-Bissau (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Guinea-Bissau issued on 27 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the return of constitutional and democratic order to Guinea-Bissau through the holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections whose results are the expression of the will of its people. The European Union appeals to all parties in Guinea-Bissau to abide by those results and to cooperate among themselves in order to consolidate peace, national reconciliation and economic development.

The European Union congratulates the newly democratically elected institutions of government of the country and strongly encourages them to act in a spirit of tolerance, in order to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights for the benefit and prosperity of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

The European Union reiterates that, under such conditions, it is ready to cooperate with the new authorities and to continue to support Guinea-Bissau in its reconstruction and rehabilitation programme.

The European Union commends the work carried out by the Government of National Unity as well as that of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau for the promotion of the pacification and democratization process in Guinea-Bissau.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.